

Testimony of  
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Dear committee members, it is a privilege to express my support of UConn Health. As a lifelong Connecticut resident, I must communicate to you the importance of UConn Health to the state of Connecticut. Every year, UConn Health produces an exceptionally well-trained cohort of physicians, dentists, and scientists. These are the committed people that go on to serve Connecticut either directly by developing careers here or indirectly by representing UConn Health as a leading institution of higher learning. Not every state has such an institution and we are very fortunate to have this here. The experience and professional development that is offered at UConn Health can be found in few other places in New England.

Every year, UConn Health provides critical healthcare services to surrounding communities and our students participate in community outreach programs which are too numerous to list here but I would like to highlight some interesting ways that UConn helps its students to give back to the greater community. There is an excellent partnership between UConn Health and nearby Farmington High School to offer the so-called Cutting Edge program in which graduate students educate high school students about their dissertation research. The experience is formative for many of the students. UConn Health has many such programs that enrich the surrounding communities

I can tell you based on my personal experiences as an undergraduate, graduate student, dental student, and now resident/fellow that UConn Health is committed to developing highly skilled, technically knowledgeable clinicians that are active contributors to science and academia. This applies not only in the practical terms of providing the most up to date curricula and recruiting the most talented researchers, faculty, and students but is also reflected in the culture of the individuals who operate the institution on a daily basis and in particular at the School of Dental Medicine. I would like to particularly recognize our Dean who has continually demonstrated commitment to progress in Dental Medicine by investing in researchers and fostering a prosperous pedagogical environment. The School of Dental Medicine is recognized at both the state and national levels as being one of the premiere institutions for training dentists. I, myself, had the good fortune to be in its DMD/PhD program, one of the few such programs in the US that is designed to create the next generation of dentist-scientists.

I can also testify that UConn Health has also developed an infrastructure that is essential for cultivating talented clinicians and researchers. UConn's federally funded clinician-scientist training programs are committed to cultivating the next generation of researchers. The institution is home to the National Center for Biomolecular NMR Data Processing and Analysis, where I studied as a graduate student. Having access to such a prestigious center and its state-of-the-art equipment is a high privilege and is exciting for students. As demonstrated by the diversity of experiences that one can have here, it is clear that UConn Health is a unique place of collaboration and discovery.

The Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine and the Graduate School possess the determination and willingness to take action and achieve extraordinary results, train the best clinicians, and develop the most successful researchers. I urge you to provide the funding that is necessary to continue support the great people that call this institution home.